

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

July 9, 2009

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, July 9, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

Chairperson Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Philip Donovan, Gerard Blanchette, Dr. Douglas Black, Robert V. Johnson II, Marilyn Fraser, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, and Vice Chair Frederick Richards. City Planner Douglas Woodward and Administrative Specialist Donna Muir were also present.

Absent from the meeting were Commission Members James McConaha, Bryant Tolles, and Carol Durgy Brooks.

Chairperson Donovan elevated the alternate members to full member status for the meeting.

2. Minutes of June 4, 2009:

The Commission considered the minutes of the June 4, 2009, Heritage Commission meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and Ms. Fraser seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. The motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2009 meeting passed unanimously.

3. New Business:

Commemorating James M. Langley:

Dr. Black stated that Mr. William Upton was unable to attend this month's Heritage Commission meeting, but that he would attempt to be in attendance for the August meeting. Mr. Upton would like to discuss plans with the Heritage Commission members for a commemoration to James M. Langley. Dr. Black provided a handout to the Commission members, which provided background information on the life of James M. Langley. Dr. Black stated that Mr. Upton would like to work with the Commission to decide the wording for and location of the sign. A suggestion was made that funding for the sign could possibly come from the City of Concord, St. Paul's School, and Concord Hospital, all of which were involved with the Langley Parkway.

4. Old Business:

Isaac Hill Monument:

Mr. Johnson stated that Perry Brothers Monument on North State Street had moved the monument from Loudon Road to their place of business and is in the process of cleaning up the monument. Mr. Johnson stated that from his research, he has concluded that Mr. Hill lived first on North Main Street and then moved to a home on South Main Street. There was much discussion as to where the two houses were located and whether a place in close proximity to one of Isaac Hill's homes would be appropriate for the monument. Questions were raised regarding whether the records and maps used to pinpoint the Hill homes were for the correct generation of the Hill family. Ms. Hengen volunteered to research the Survey Forms from the Downtown Historic Survey, to see if she could ascertain the correct location. Mr. Woodward said that he would check with the Concord Monitor to see if they had any additional information regarding Isaac Hill that may be helpful in determining where the best location for the monument would be. It was discussed that knowing what the monument's inscription was could also shed some light as to the proper location. A suggestion to have the monument made into a plaque to be affixed to the side of a building was made. Chairman Donovan requested Mr. Johnson visit the two Main Street areas and report back to the Commission on likely sites.

Certified Local Government Grant:

Vice Chairperson Richards stated that he had spoken to the NHDHR regarding the Commission's application. The NHDHR informed him that five grant applications were received, all of which were for survey projects. A total of \$60,000 is available to be awarded for this year's round of grants.

August Heritage Commission Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Heritage Commission is set for Thursday, August 6, 2009; however, a number of Commission members will be unable to attend. Therefore, a motion was made by Marilyn Fraser and seconded by Vice Chairperson Richards to move the meeting to August 13, 2009. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding changing the date of the August meeting. The motion to accept the changed meeting date passed unanimously. It was further agreed that if there was no new business in need of immediate attention by the Commission that afternoon, that the Commission would not meet at all in August and would reconvene in September. The decision on the need for an August meeting was left to the discretion of the Chair.

[Marilyn Fraser left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.]

Page Belting Chimney Demolition:

Dr. Black received a letter from a resident concerning the demolition of the chimney on the Page Belting building. Mr. Woodward stated that he had checked with the City's Code Enforcement Division, and they had not received any application for a demolition permit. Ms. Hengen said that the square footage of the chimney was not of a size large enough to require the notification of the Commission under the Demolition Delay Ordinance. Dr. Black felt that this was an instance in which the Commission should do something preemptively, and he volunteered to contact the owner, Mr. Charles Wetterer.

Hannah Dustin Memorial:

Mr. Woodward stated that the Concord Monitor and other news outlets had reported that the State was divesting itself of various parks, including the Hannah Dustin Memorial park. Mr. Blanchette stated that he was attending the Penacook Historical Society meeting later this evening and would talk with them about the memorial park. Ms. Hengen said that the news accounts misrepresented the State's intentions and that the State was not selling off its parks.

There was no further business or discussion. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Donna Muir
Administrative Specialist
Planning Division